Remarks

The Office Action mailed January 24, 2006 and made final has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-47 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 and 20-32 stand rejected. Claims 12-19 and 33-47 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a two-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2006 and made final, for the above-identified patent application from April 24, 2006, through and including June 24, 2006. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of $450.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-11 and 20-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sragner (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,485) in view of Underwood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,057) ("Underwood") is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Sragner nor Underwood, alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between the cited references and the present invention is that neither Sragner nor Underwood, describe or suggest a document assembly production system that includes a server having a plurality of templates and other document assembly assets *including a plurality of input documents stored therein*, and at least one remote computer configured to communicate with the server, wherein the server is configured to prompt the user to select a template from the plurality of templates, wherein *each template is associated with a class of document to be assembled for a type of transaction* and *each document class includes a plurality of document types typically associated with the corresponding transaction type*, and wherein each template includes logic for controlling a structure of the assembled document including logic that controls displaying

document structure questions and identifying input documents used for performing the document assembly. (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, neither Sragner nor Underwood describe or suggest a document assembly production system that includes a server configured to display document structure questions on the remote computer wherein the document structure questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and are displayed in a tree format, and receive a response for each document structure question displayed *wherein the document structure responses determine the document types included within the assembled document.* (Emphasis added.)

Furthermore, neither Sragner nor Underwood, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a document assembly production system that includes a server configured to *identify pre-assigned, modifiable input documents from the plurality of input documents compatible with the selected template and the document structure responses for generating the documents to be assembled wherein the identified input documents including data fill-points*, display transaction questions on the remote computer wherein the transaction questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and the document structure responses, *receive a response for each transaction question displayed wherein the transaction responses populate the data fill-points included within the identified input documents, and generate the assembled documents based on the identified input documents and the transaction responses received.* (Emphasis added.)

More specifically, Sragner describes a system and method for transmission of documents including word processing, spreadsheets, and other formatted documents, over a computer network with no need for additional formatting software. The Sragner system uses a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) sending script to send e-mail with the selected document, in its native format, as an attachment to e-mail submissions or obtained directly from websites using standard word processing programs, with end user prerequisites for using the method and system being standard word processing software and e-mail capability. The form may be returned to the

server in electronic form, and the accompanying data posted to one or more databases, or automatically stored on disk, printed, or routed to other e-mail addresses.

Sragner also describes methods and systems that sends user-selected documents, which may also include related data, from a central server to a remote user automatically over a computer network utilizing a server gateway interface script to directly attach the selected document and any related data to an e-mail message directed to a designated e-mail address. The invention also provides for the return of documents and information from the user to the central server. The documents may be of any format, including forms, instructional materials, newsletters, and databases. The server gateway interface may be the Common Gateway Interface ("CGI"). The related data may include user-personal information, form-specific data, and user preferences.

Underwood describes a method and apparatus for generating and maintaining a customized web site, and more particularly a method and apparatus for allowing an inexperienced user to make various design and content selections for generation of a customized web site. Regardless of the selections made by a user, correspondence between these selections is maintained by the apparatus such that each web site appears as a customized individual web site. A user may be prohibited or discouraged from making design choices that might detract from the overall look and feel of the site.

In Underwood, the apparatus includes various modules, including a site provider (Site Definer) for defining the structure, content and embedded applications of a web site, a framework provider (Framework Definer) which provides various layout variations for a web site, an image provider (Image Definer) which allows for the selection and maintenance of various images on a web site, a Project Manager which coordinates the three prior Definer Publishing products to produce a professional multi-dimensional web site solution, and a web provider (Web Definer) which is the end-user tool that allows a user to select various combinations and to edit the web site.

Claim 1 recites a document assembly production system that includes a server having a plurality of templates and other document assembly assets including a plurality of input documents stored therein, and includes at least one remote computer configured to communicate with the server directing the server to access the plurality of templates and the other assembly assets to assemble fully formatted documents without using any document-assembly software and word processing software stored on the at least one remote computer. The server is configured to: "prompt the user through the at least one remote computer to select a template from the plurality of templates, each template is associated with a class of document to be assembled for a type of transaction, wherein each document class includes a plurality of document types typically associated with the corresponding transaction type, each template includes logic for controlling a structure of the assembled document wherein the logic controls displaying document structure questions and identifying input documents used for performing the document assembly...display document structure questions on the remote computer, wherein the document structure questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and are displayed in a tree format...receive a response for each document structure question displayed, wherein the document structure responses determine the document types included within the assembled document...identify pre-assigned, modifiable input documents from the plurality of input documents compatible with the selected template and the document structure responses for generating the documents to be assembled, the identified input documents including data fill-points...display transaction questions on the remote computer, wherein the transaction questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and the document structure responses...receive a response for each transaction question displayed, wherein the transaction responses populate the data fill-points included within the identified input documents...and generate the assembled documents based on the identified input documents and the transaction responses received."

Neither Sragner nor Underwood, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a document assembly production system as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Sragner nor Underwood, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a server having a plurality

of templates and other document assembly assets *including a plurality of input documents stored therein*, and at least one remote computer configured to communicate with the server, wherein the server is configured to prompt the user through the at least one remote computer to *select a template from the plurality of templates, wherein each template is associated with a class of document to be assembled for a type of transaction, each document class includes a plurality of document types typically associated with the corresponding transaction type,* each template includes logic for controlling a structure of the assembled document wherein the logic controls displaying document structure questions and identifying input documents used for performing the document assembly. (Emphasis added.)

Rather, Sragner describes a method for a user to retrieve prepared documents in any format over a computer network, and Underwood describes a method and apparatus for generating and maintaining a customized web site that includes editing a template web site into the unique, customized web site. Although Underwood mentions a template web site, Underwood does not describe or suggest "a plurality of input documents" or "to select a template from the plurality of templates, wherein *each template is associated with a class of document to be assembled for a type of transaction, each document class includes a plurality of document types typically associated with the corresponding transaction type*". (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, neither Sragner nor Underwood, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a document assembly production system that includes a server configured to display document structure questions on the remote computer wherein the document structure questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and are displayed in a tree format, and receive a response for each document structure question displayed *wherein the document structure responses determine the document types included within the assembled document*. (Emphasis added.)

Rather, Sragner describes a method for a user to retrieve prepared documents, and Underwood describes an apparatus for generating a customized web site that displays a structure of template web pages for a template web site pursuant to information entered by the user with

different colors indicating the various enabled and disabled template web pages. However, no combination of Sragner and Underwood describes or suggests displaying document structure questions on a remote computer wherein the document structure questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in a selected template and are displayed in a tree format, and receiving a response for each document structure question displayed wherein the document structure responses *determine the document types included within the assembled document*. (Emphasis added.)

Furthermore, neither Sragner nor Underwood, alone or in combination, describe or suggest a document assembly production system that includes a server configured to identify *pre-assigned, modifiable input documents from the plurality of input documents compatible with the selected template and the document structure responses* for generating the documents to be assembled wherein *the identified input documents include data fill-points,* display transaction questions on the remote computer wherein the transaction questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and the document structure responses, receive a response for each transaction question displayed wherein the transaction responses populate the data fill-points included within the identified input documents, and *generate the assembled documents based on the identified input documents and the transaction responses received.* (Emphasis added.)

Rather, Sragner simply describes a method for a user to retrieve prepared documents, but does not display transaction-specific questions. Underwood describes an apparatus for generating a customized web site that displays a structure of template web pages for a template web site pursuant to information entered by the user with different colors indicating the various enabled and disabled template web pages. However, no combination of Sragner and Underwood describes or suggests identifying pre-assigned, modifiable input documents from a plurality of input documents compatible with a selected template and document structure responses for generating the documents to be assembled wherein the identified input documents include data fill-points, receiving a response for each transaction question displayed wherein the transaction responses populate the data fill-points included within the identified input documents, and

generating the assembled documents based on the identified input documents and the transaction responses received.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Sragner in view of Underwood.

Claims 2-11 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-11 likewise are patentable over Sragner in view of Underwood.

Claim 20 recites a document assembly production system that includes a server, a database coupled to the server for storing a plurality of templates and other document assembly assets including a plurality of input documents, and at least one remote computer in communication with the server. The server is configured to "prompt a user through said at least one remote computer to select a template from the plurality of templates, each template is associated with a class of document to be assembled for a type of transaction, wherein each document class includes a plurality of document types typically associated with the corresponding transaction type, each template includes logic for controlling a structure of the assembled document including logic for controlling displaying document structure questions and identifying input documents used for performing the document assembly...display document structure questions on said remote computer, wherein the document structure questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and are displayed in a tree format...receive a response for each document structure question displayed, wherein the document structure responses determine the document types included within the assembled document...identify pre-assigned, modifiable input documents from the plurality of input documents compatible with the selected template and the document structure responses for generating the documents to be assembled, the identified input documents including data fill-points...display transaction questions on the remote computer, wherein the transaction questions displayed are controlled by logic and conditions imbedded in the selected template and the document structure responses...receive a response for each transaction question displayed,

wherein the transaction responses populate the data fill-points included within the identified input documents...and generate the assembled documents based on the identified input documents and the transaction responses received."

Claim 20 recites a document assembly production system that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those steps performed by the server recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 20 is patentable over Sragner in view of Underwood for at least the reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 21-32 depend from independent Claim 20. When the recitations of Claims 21-32 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 20, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 21-32 likewise are patentable over Sragner in view of Underwood.

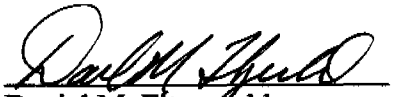
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-11 and 20-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. Neither Sragner or Underwood, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Sragner and Underwood, because there is no motivation to combine the references suggested in the art. The Examiner only offers the conclusory statement that "it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify teaching of Sragner" because of various advantages. But these "various advantages" refer to Underwood's method for designing a web site. The Examiner does not explain why one skilled in the art would be motivated to combine Sragner and Underwood to create a document assembly production system.

Thus, it is clear that the present Section 103 rejection is based on a combination of teachings selected in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Since there is no teaching nor suggestion in the cited art for the combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants request that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the Claims now active in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Registration No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070